

dodendron Society. In October we plan to enjoy a color slide show of England's Exbury Azaleas in their springtime glory.

At the time of this writing, Dallas is suffering an extended drought, the first July in recorded history without any rain. I have been experimenting in my home garden with a pure pine bark planting, which is exposed to wind on the east and west sides and full sun on the north. The pine bark is aged and finely milled, individual pieces able to pass through a 1/4" sieve. Sixty yards of pine bark were placed in beds excavated eighteen inches deep in black clay soils during the 1992 Labor Day weekend. The beds are well drained by physical sloping as well as four-inch perforated PVC piping which was placed in shallow trenches along the entire length of the beds. The azaleas have been fertilized with Ironite exclusively. Water is manually applied through a hose since no automatic sprinkler system is in place. I can report success at this point without any need for peat moss additives. The only azaleas which have been lost are plants of 'Sherwood Red', which were planted in an exposed bed on the south with exposure to sun and wind accelerated between houses. Watering was not necessary from November through May due to rainfall. Watering has been necessary on a two-day interval since water rationing was instituted in mid-July. Azaleas will take dry heat to 103 degrees planted in pure pine bark if given regular watering. The pure pine bark planting provides an initial cost savings for bed preparation. Water requirements are probably higher than if peat moss were present. □

Oconee Chapter  
Jim Thornton, *President*

The Oconee Chapter met April 18 in Conyers, GA. Our program included Hugh Caldwell of Doctor's Inlet, Florida, discussing his relationship with Ben Morrison and George Harding. Mr. Caldwell also presented a slide show of Glenn Dales. Ralph Bullard, a notable iris expert, presented "Iris in the Azalea Landscape".

With 27 attending, we raised \$150.00 from plant sales. Plants were donated by Hugh Caldwell, Allison Fuqua, Fred Sorg (a new member) and Jim Harris (who donated a new introduction 'Coronado Red'). A very special thanks to these people!

The chapter's next meeting was held at Dr. Ben Reid's Azalea Farm where members are asked to bring and share their rare and unusual azalea plants.

In addition, the Oconee Chapter will hold its second annual "Azaleas in Bloom" show on May 1 at the Conyers, GA, GoldKist store. The purpose, of course, is to promote public awareness and to recruit new members.

Coming up later in the year, native azaleas (presenter to be announced)

with new member George Sanko presenting "Native Companion Plants".

Our final meeting this year will bring Mary Beasley to the front, along with our annual election of officers. Dates will be announced. □

### In Memory

Nancy Reynolds Gartrell died on August 13, 1993 at 99 years of age. Robert D. Gartrell chose the name of his beloved wife when naming the azalea he considered his finest—'Nancy of Robinhill'. Nancy will be fondly remembered not only by family and close friends, but also by many azalea enthusiasts who met her while visiting The Gartrell's Gardens at Robin Hill in Ridgewood, NJ, or Little Robin Hill in Wyckoff, NJ. □

## Azalea Calendar

### 1993

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|-------------|--|
| October 10  | Executive Committee meeting  |
| October 16  | Glenn Dale workday from 9:00AM until 1:00PM. For more information contact Bill Miller (301) 365-0692.              |
| October 19  | Dallas Chapter meeting, Highland Park Town Hall at 7:00PM  |
| October 30  | Board of Directors meeting tentatively scheduled at the National Arboretum   |
| November 1  | Deadline for receiving material (articles, advertisements, and chapter news) for the December issue of THE AZALEAN |
| November 20 | Glenn Dale workday from 9:00AM until 1:00PM. For more information contact Bill Miller (301) 365-0692.              |

### 1994

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|------------------|--|
| April 28, 29, 30 | ASA Convention and Annual Meeting in Richmond, VA  |
| June 18          | A "Palette of Garden Arts" is presented for the public's enjoyment by The Aptuxet Garden Club of Bourne, from 10:00 AM until 5:00 PM. A tour of Cape Cod gardens is combined with "objects d'art" in homes enhanced by floral designs. Morning coffee, as well as, afternoon tea will be served, and unusual gifts are to be offered in our Boutique. Tickets are \$10.00, \$8.00 in advance with a self-addressed stamped envelope, which will benefit Civic Projects and may be purchased by writing P. O. Box 545, Pocasset, MA 02559-0545, or by telephoning (508) 563-2739. |